



City of New Bedford

Jon Mitchell, Mayor

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Mayor's Update:

The New Bedford Marine Commerce Terminal and the City's Efforts to Develop the Offshore Wind Energy Industry

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Recent Developments:

The City of New Bedford is pressing forward with its ambitious economic development agenda to create a solid foundation for future job growth. One important goal is to develop the port of New Bedford as a center for the new offshore wind energy industry.

Governor Deval Patrick and Energy Secretary Rick Sullivan joined a host of local officials and community leaders in breaking ground for the New Bedford Marine Commerce Terminal on May 6.

The Terminal groundbreaking was the most significant milestone to-date in the construction of this \$100 million multi-purpose heavy-load intermodal facility designed specifically to accommodate the assembly and staging of massive turbines, blades, and foundations used in the offshore wind energy industry. The Terminal will also enhance the port's traditional cargo and shipping capacity.

No other facility of this kind presently exists in North America, with the closest comparable projects in use in Northern Europe. Beyond construction activity, Terminal- and Offshore Wind-related work continues at every level of government. The following is an outline of activity underway at the federal, state, and city-level:

Federal Level

- Offshore wind (OSW) is a national priority of the Obama Administration, with special focus on waters off the Northeast coast where fully 25% of the nation's wind energy reserves are located. New Bedford is the closest industrial port to these reserves.
- As part of the so-called 'fiscal cliff' deal, Congress voted to extend the Production Tax Credit (PTC), a crucial financing tool for offshore wind that makes investment in the clean energy industry much more attractive.
- Cape Wind, the nation's first-ever OSW project proposed for ocean waters a few hours west of New Bedford, is progressing in its financing and federal Department of Energy loan guarantees are being secured.

State Level

- Site control for the 28-acre Terminal facility is now complete.
- Terminal construction by the selected General Contractor, Cashman/Weeks, has been underway for several weeks.
- Construction of the Terminal, under the management of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, is expected to be complete in November 2014—a 19-month build-out.

City Level

- Mayor Mitchell established earlier this year an **Offshore Wind Industry Advisory Group** composed of all major offshore wind energy developers in the Northeast, as well as key business leaders and policy-makers. Input from members of the Group has continued to prove invaluable in guiding the City's economic development efforts.
- The OSW **Business and Workforce Development Task Force**—a local group of more than 40 area stakeholders—continues to work on strategies and funding opportunities for training and preparedness.
- A **Federal Stakeholders Summit** of the regional heads of all of the Federal Agencies (EPA, EDA, HUD, Home Land Security, Coast Guard, Army Corps, and others) associated in any way with the development of the OSW sector met in New Bedford on February 20th at the request of Mayor Mitchell and Congressman Bill Keating to introduce them to the Terminal project and to explore funding partnerships.

- The City and the Economic Development Council (NBEDC) have engaged with the **internationally renowned planning firm, Sasaki**, to assist in scoping out the first phase requirements for urban renewal planning along the waterfront.
- **Regular ‘local jobs’ meetings** continue with the City, the General Contractor, and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC). (MassCEC is charged with fostering the growth of the OSW industry in the Commonwealth). The focus of weekly discussions is on ensuring the maximum number of New Bedford businesses participating in construction of the Terminal Project, as well as developing New Bedford as the North American epicenter of the OSW industry.
- The City has begun a **comprehensive supply chain study** working with “GLWN,” a national leader in analyzing the supply-chain needs of the wind energy industry. Weekly calls with GLWN team are ongoing.
- The City is also pursuing grant funding for programmatic activity in workforce training, land-use planning, and general operations for the **New Bedford Wind Energy Center** established with the support of Mayor Mitchell and the City Council.
- The City/NBEDC submitted a letter of intent for the **Working Cities Challenge Grant** announced by the Boston Federal Reserve Bank. If awarded to the City, the grant could mean \$700K of funding (over three years). 26 applications from across the region are competing for three awards. The City will be submitting its application by the July deadline. Awards will be made in early 2014 after an independent review of all applications in the fall.
- The **21st Century Wind Energy Fund** (a funding mechanism for the New Bedford Wind Energy Center led by New Bedford’s CEO Council) is making good progress toward its goals. The NBEDC is expecting to meet its preliminary goal of \$250K in ‘start-up’ commitments by June—with the Fund officially kicking off on July 1st.